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Cougars Were Competitive; Finish 11-12 in Boys Basketball

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Three senior starters and a multitude of sophomores and juniors comprised this year's Cranford High School (CHS) boys basketball team that competed in the Union County Conference

Sky Division that was comprised of New Providence (Pioneers), Governor Livingston (Highlanders), Roselle (Rams) and AL Johnson (Crusaders). Although the Pioneers, who finished with a 29-3 overall record, won the division with an 8-0 record and the

Highlanders were 6-2, the Cougars finished in the middle of the pack with a 5-4 record but more than doubled their overall win record from last year to finish 11-12.

Aware of his team being undersized as compared to the rest of the conference and county, first-year Head Coach Sean Trotter, a 2011 CHS graduate and three-sport athlete, who had been the

assistant coach the three previous years, had a philosophy of out-hustle, outwork and outsmart the opponents. The result was a season filled with very competitive games.

Within the conference, the Cougars defeated Roselle three times, 58-47, 64-49 and 59-25, and the Crusaders twice, 49-46 and 57-44. The Cougars had a 6-3 record against non-county opponents, the wins being over Voorhees, 68-56, Eagle Area, 64-62, Somerville, 51-43, South

Plainfield, 58-53, Lyndhurst, 50-47, and Millburn, 63-52.

The Cougars did experience several stinging losses — Governor Livingston, 57-54, Hillside, 62-60, Metuchen, 55-53, and Hanover Park, 61-59. But the biggest burn came in a 77-74, overtime setback to the Pioneers in Cranford where the Cougars overcame a 13-point halftime deficit to send the game into overtime. The Cougars' season came to an end when they lost in

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